Rwanga Foundation is a non-governmental organization, which envisages a world where quality education is accessible for all. Its mission is to provide services, build capacities, and design policies to ensure easy access to education for all and improve the overall educational standards in KRI, Iraq, and the greater global community. Rwanga’s strategic goals are to develop platforms for youth to discover talents, fulfill their potentials, and introduce the latest technology, including an e-learning system to the education process, in order to meet the advanced international standards and create a culture and passion for learning in particular among the youth.

Rwanga Foundation’s Headquarters is based in Erbil. It officially launched its activities in September 2013 to conduct projects and activities all over Iraq through its four main sectors of education, youth, environment, and vulnerable groups.
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We established Rwanga Foundation to help make education universal. To improve education is the principal idea that guides us; we firmly hold that the employability, dignity, security and self-respect of individuals hinges on their education. We believe that the individuals’ education is by far their most precious investment and in effect, confers identity to them. We operate on the belief that in this changing world individuals remain loyal only to a culture based on education. Therefore, we aim to create a culture of learning among the youth so that they find an essential function in society.

To counter the adverse circumstances, created by the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Syria, we broadened our operations beyond education and youth empowerment to include refugee and disaster relief. We have aided the internally displaced peoples in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region, and assisted the Syrian refugees; in particular, to help them pursue education, to facilitate capacity building, and to provide employment opportunities. Furthermore, as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Rwanga volunteers have been distributing food supplies to the vulnerable families in quarantine.

Rwanga continues to focus on education and youth empowerment, and in the meantime stands ready to support the disadvantaged and the less fortunate in our society. We remain steadfast to create a better future; we remain committed to our vision of improving education and creating a culture of learning.

Idris Nachirvan Idris
Founder and President
During 2020, Rwanga Foundation successfully continued carrying out projects and activities in the four sectors of Education, Youth, Environment, and Vulnerable Groups, mainly in the Kurdistan region and in the other parts of Iraq. In 2020, Rwanga Foundation was able to implement twenty-four projects in which various activities allocated to support and aid the community. The assistance reached approximately half a million people in different categories of age, gender, host communities, IDPs, and refugees, focusing on female and male youths.
The projects and activities included delivering online classes and videos, providing winter clothes to the students, publishing applications, and organizing competitions for students.

As regards to youths, the projects and activities covered sectors of human capacity development where female and male youths between the ages of 18 – 35 were actively trained in vocational training, business start-up courses as well as created a youth bridge platform where youth can see themselves owning a job whether as employees, apprentices, or volunteers. The provided on-the-job training and job placement could remarkably enable youths to become extroverts, socially active actors, and economically self-reliant.

Additionally, Rwanga Foundation provided basic support and assistance to help the disadvantaged people, mainly the displaced people, who lived inside and outside camps, and the vulnerable people from the refugees and host communities, to regain strength, become more resilient, and eventually self-dependent. Particularly in disease outbreaks (Covid-19 pandemic), to alleviate human suffering and helping people in need become more self-reliant.

Raising awareness of the public in general and the youth in particular about the importance of education, environmental protection, human capacity development, employment, volunteerism, and the role of youth in developing society was another significant achievement during the year.
The twenty-four projects were implemented in close coordination with the relevant government authorities as well as with other concerned stakeholders, including the target communities, non-governmental and civil society organizations. The main donors and partners of Rwanga Foundation in 2020 included international and national organizations, among others: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), BMZ, EU Trust Fund, Silatech Foundation, KIA (Kerk in Acties), LWF (The Lutheran World Federation), USAID - IPA-Takamul, UNDP, Gulf Keystone Petroleum / Iraq, Private donors, Al Hayat Company- PEPSI, UKH, Koya University, NWE organization, The International School of Choueifat, Directorate of Water – Duhok, Zaweta Academic Office, The Ministry of Education – KRG.

It is worth mentioning that since launching its programs in September 2013 until December 2020, Rwanga Foundation executed 233 projects benefiting more than 3 million people from the host, IDP, and refugee communities.
Education is not limited to the knowledge we gain from school or university, but it is a continuous learning process through practical and innovative methods and approaches. Rwanga Foundation believes that quality education should be accessible for all and strives to improve various aspects of learning and education.

The Rwanga Foundation, in partnership with international and national organizations and coordination with the Ministry of Education, conducted seven projects in 2020. The education projects and activities, in total, benefited more than 277,293 students, youths, and teaching staff.
To empower and develop the educational system through technology’s contemporary methods and approaches. Rwanga Foundation implemented the “Rwanga Qutabkhana Application” project in the Kurdistan Region Iraq to provide all the lessons for grade ninth and twelfth in Kurdish (in both dialects; Sorani and Badini).

The application consisted of tests, questions, and answers that supported ninth and twelfth-grade students. There were 40 lessons in the application, divided into 495 sections, including nearly 42,000 questions. In addition, 28 teachers participated in preparing questions in order to support the students to test their knowledge before attending the final exams. Al-Hayat – Pepsi Co. funded the project to sustain the educational system through contemporary methods. Rwanga Qutabkhana Application: 22,291 USERS (12,635 male and 9,656 female)
Rwanga Book Project was another project under the Education program. It sought to encourage and coordinate collaboration among readers and writers to develop reading quality and education. The project started in January and ended in August 2020.

Rwanga Foundation awarded the first four winners in publishing two novels and two advice books to the readers, whether in universities, bookstores, libraries, or schools. The main themes of this project were on encouraging the youth community to build their future and identifying the problems of youth with alternative solutions.
As part of the Winterization Items Project in coordination with The International School of Choueifat, Rwanga Foundation distributed winter clothes to 304 students in nine schools in Erbil.

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<th>Schools</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<td>9</td>
<td>304</td>
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To encourage students to attend the sciences stream, as it was a gap indicated by the Ministry of Education research, Rwanga Foundation implemented a ‘Mathematics Competition’ to motivate the 10th-grade students to attend the sciences stream at high school and create a platform for students to show their talents and abilities. Students competed through four phases to rank up to the first, second, and third levels. Rwanga Foundation awarded the first three winners. In total, 546 students (352 female and 194 male) participated in the competition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Stages</th>
<th>Winners</th>
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<td>546</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
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Among other projects under the education program are those conducted and managed online. University Guide Video was one of the online projects to produce a guide video about studying and life in university to guide the high school students to make their decisions for pursuing the education journey. The videos included interviews with key persons such as deans of colleges, heads of departments, and several students from each department to shed light on departments, curriculum, teaching qualifications, job opportunities after graduation, and student’s life experience. In 2020, the project reached 126,489 YouTube viewers and thousands of viewers via Facebook and other social media channels.

Besides, to support students who studied in Syriac and Turkmani languages and had to continue their education while at home due to the coronavirus pandemic. Rwanga Foundation was in close coordination with the Ministry of Education and other relevant stakeholders to find the possible methods to tackle the issue of online video lessons to support those students. The Ministry of Education agreed that Rwanga Foundation recorded video lessons funded by (Al Hayat Company and PEPSI). The recorded videos were published online for the students to catch up with classes while at home and perhaps with the support of parents. The project designed to be implemented for 3 months (April to June 2020), but due to the Covid19- pandemic, the project extended until January 2021 supported 4,268 students.
Another online project was developed and published through online lessons of English, Chemistry, and Physics subjects. They were considered among the most challenging topics for the students in the sciences stream in general and the 12th-grade students in particular. This project was implemented in partnership with Zaweta Academic Office to meet the project objective. Considering the above and that most high school students should have easy internet access, the project was developed and proved to be very helpful based on the viewers’ feedback, particularly for the students who could not afford to hire private tutors. The online classes had about 115,352 viewers from April 2019 to April 2020.
Involving youth in creating positive changes and developing society is an absolute necessity. Therefore, supporting and developing the capabilities of youth is one of the main objectives of the Rwanga Foundation, which is achieved through providing various opportunities for youth to play their vital role and become a real driving force for developing society in all aspects.

Rwanga Foundation launched nine projects in 2020. The project benefitted more than 51,307 youths.
Rwanga Foras Project is one of the main youth projects which was funded by the Silatech Foundation. Foras project in partnership with Microsoft Corporation and Rwanga Foundation implemented the project for the fourth successive year. Rwanga Foras Project, which was funded by the GIZ from April 2019 until September 2020, was a platform that brought together different resources, opportunities, and initiatives for everyone, mainly youth and university graduates, who were eager to learn, work, and develop themselves but did not know where to start.

The project operated all over Iraq to provide host, IDP, and refugee youth with free access to a wide variety of resources through online training courses, including personalized advice on how to write a CV and cover letter, learn about interview skills, and work ethics. It was further a career guidance tool that provided virtual advising to help young people determine the career path that best matches their life aspirations. Rwanga Foras was also to register companies and job providers – 6,648 job providers were registered on the Foras Portal to bridge the connection between job providers and job seekers by announcing job vacancies and establishing networking platforms to provide job opportunities for the young job seekers.

In 2020, through online training courses, job placement, and email and phone communication, the project supported and guided 14,749 people, mainly female and male youth job seekers, across Iraq. 548 youth placed into jobs and 14,749 beneficiaries.
The Rwanga Foras Project also included Rwanga Foras International Job Fair 2020 (RFIJF 2020), which was an annual event that occurred to provide a networking opportunity for employers and recruiters from various sectors, including private, public, profitable, and non-profit local and international organizations to gather under one roof to meet and communicate with prospective job seekers. Due to the Lockdown of COVID-19, the Job Fair 2020 launched online in Erbil on November 4, 5, and 2020, included all over Iraq, in which 110 local and international companies and organizations participated and had 325,296 visitors. It is worth mentioning that during the job fair 5,388, vacancies were announced. Young and newly graduated students submitted 71,021 job applications. 325,296 visitors, 5,388 job opportunities, and 25,883 registered people in RFIJF.

<table>
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<th>Visitors</th>
<th>325,296</th>
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<td>Job Opportunities</td>
<td>5,388</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registered People in RFIJF</td>
<td>25,883</td>
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Annual Rwanga Awards 2020: To improve and foster the potentials of the youth, Rwanga Foundation organizes the “Annual Rwanga Awards” to discover talents and strengthen confidence among youths. Rwanga Foundation accepted the submission of products by young people (15-25) including IDPs, refugees, and all over Kurdistan Region, including Kirkuk governorate.

The categories for submission were a short story, short film, recycled art, scientific innovation, entrepreneurship, solo musician, photography, drawing, poetry, and software development. A specialized jury evaluated the products for each category. The nominees (three winners per category, thirty in total) were selected as winners and awarded in Rwanga Awards final ceremony, at the Saad Abdullah Convention Hall, in Erbil, on December 20, 2020. 30 awarded youth, 10 categories, and 544 beneficiaries.
Rwanga Foundation also implemented the Employment Creation Grant Scheme in KRI, under the name of Employment Creation Grant Scheme in KRI was funded by the “EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, the EU MADAD Fund” and in partnership with UNDP and Erbil Governor Office. The main goal was to improve the resilience of host, and refugee populations in the target communities impacted by the Syrian crisis through strengthened local/regional multi-level governance systems and improved access to basic services, affordable housing, and income while complementing existing initiatives and supporting national governments addressed those risks and vulnerabilities. Due to the Headway Programme’s Job Creation in KRI, the grant scheme contributed resilience in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in which 56 Companies were supported and provided 700 jobs for vulnerable youth, among them 240 females. In contrast, 20 successful candidates received funds to establish and develop their business for the Entrepreneurship Development Programme project at Koya University. Youth Entrepreneurship project implemented at the University of Kurdistan-Hawler, three winning teams in the hackathon and six winning teams in training, were selected at the end to receive funds. At the same time, ten business plans have been selected to be supported financially for building and developing their business for the Development of Agripreneurship Initiatives in Halabja.

Regarding the Entrepreneurship Network Crowd-funding platform, 30 start-ups have been selected based on established evaluation criteria with the local and international consultants.

In addition, the Let’s Beat Corona Campaign was another part of this project as an awareness campaign on COVID-19 implemented in Iraq from June to September 2020. UNDP executed the campaign under the programs Supporting Recovery and Stability in Iraq through Local Development, funded by the European Union, and Headway, financed by the EU Regional Trust Fund, MADAD.

31,700,000 people reached the online and offline components of the campaign

- 31.7 million people reached the online and offline components of the campaign:
  - 29 million reached directly and indirectly through the dissemination of awareness material
  - 2.7 million reached through social media
  - 69,881 awareness items disseminated in 10 governorates
  - 533 multimedia posts published on seven digital platforms

The project took 18 months and benefited 879 youths in building capacity development and job placement.
In collaboration with Waar TV, Rwanga Foundation launched the “Volunteer Youth” (VY) project in the Dohuk governorate. The project aimed to promote Voluntary work through funding 10 volunteer group projects in six governorates. The age of the targeted volunteer groups was 18 to 35 years old. After the end of the application period, a committee of specialists evaluated and selected the best 10 projects recorded and broadcasted by WAAR TV through a special program, 1,686 beneficiaries.

Rwanga Foundation also implemented the Youth Volunteers Initiative (YVI) project in partnership with several local business companies. The project aimed to promote Voluntary work among the age of 18-35 through funding of 12 volunteer groups to implement projects in six governorates: Erbil (three projects), Sulaimani (two projects), Duhok (two projects), Kirkuk (two projects), Halabja (two projects), and Nineveh (one project). The groups had to submit project proposals with required funds assessed by an independent committee.

The winners were selected based on relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the submitted projects. The volunteers’ projects included, among others, awareness-raising and artistic, educational, and environmental activities. It is estimated that the projects benefited more than 6,323 people in the targeted areas: 12 voluntary groups, 6,323 beneficiaries.
Another project under the Youth Program is to build a proper communication channel to share experiences and develop ideas. Therefore, Rwanga Foundation seized this opportunity and announced a new initiative called ‘TALK@Rwanga,’ which was a platform for talented young people to have their speeches conveyed to others and have their voices heard through Rwanga Foundation’s support and communication channels. The project duration started from January to December 2020, benefited 1,239 Youths, mainly focused between the ages 15-35.

Moreover, Rwanga Foundation has started supporting the Yariga project, an independent sports network that includes a website, application, and social media pages. It provides world updates on the latest sports news, sports statistics, and live matches. It is also among the main sources for the young sports fans in the Kurdistan Region. The Yariga website hosted millions of visitors throughout the year to make it easy for fans to get an overview of the match and sports updates.

1,239 Beneficiaries
On the other hand, Gulf Keystone Petroleum Iraq funded Rwanga Foundation to conduct the English Language and Computer Skills training courses started in September 2019 and ended in February 2020. The overall project benefited 128 female and male youths (Year; 2019:124 – 2020:4) in Qasrouk and Atrush sub-districts in the Duhok province, Kurdistan Region of Iraq.
Environmental protection, which is a global concern, holds an important place in Rwanga’s vision and mission. Rwanga Foundation, through awareness-raising campaigns, environmental guidance and education, and provision of basic materials, plays a significant role in keeping the environment clean and protected.

Over 54,186 people benefited from the two environmental projects and activities carried out by Rwanga Foundation in 2020.
Funded by the GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), Rwanga Foundation started implementing the project of “Cleaning, and maintenance of water reservoirs” covered seven districts in the Erbil governorate and was divided into two phases, the first phase included Saran, Choman, Rwandiz, and Mergasor districts.

The second phase includes Koya, Shaqilawa, and Makhmou. The project started in October 2019 and continued until April 2020, is to clean and maintain 516 iron and concrete reservoirs with different sizes from \((2^4\times3)\) to \((3^50\times30)\) meter, fixing reservoir doors, welding broken doors, painting the external wall of reservoirs, and many other fixations related to the project.

The direct beneficiaries of the project are 925 vulnerable women and men laborers.

Funded by the USAID-IGPA/Takamul and coordinating with Duhok Water Directorates, Rwanga Foundation implemented the ‘Water Communications Assistance’ project.

The project was a campaign to raise awareness of the society about the importance of saving water in order to cope with its scarcity and ensure water sustainability.

The project contained various activities such as community meetings and distributing posters, leaflets, and flyers, which contained environmental awareness messages. It also included producing videos and advertisements published through social media channels. The project, which started on June 1 and ended on September 30, 2020, is estimated to have raised awareness of more than 53,261 people. It also had an impact on reducing water usage by the targeted neighborhoods in Duhok city.
Natural and human-made disasters and conflicts have serious negative consequences on people’s lives as well as their learning and development processes. Despite focusing on development projects, Rwanga Foundation also provides essential humanitarian assistance to vulnerable groups, mainly during emergencies, to become more resilient and eventually self-dependent.

In 2020, the Foundation provided help and support to more than 51,012 vulnerable people, including children, women, men, and the elderly from the host, IDP, and refugee communities through the implementation of five projects.
Funded by the GIZ and in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA), Rwanga Foundation continued operating the six community social support centers in the six IDP camps of Kabarto1, Kabarto2, Chammo50, Sharya, Bajikandala, and Rwanga Community (Qadiya Camp) in Duhok where more than 90,000 IDPs, mainly Yazidis, live.

The project, which started in 2017, provided services to the camp populations, including legal counseling, capacity building, vocational training, informal and non-formal educational courses, general awareness-raising, music, arts, and sports courses entertainment as learning activities for children. The project aims to support the IDPs in the six camps to become more self-reliant, connected, active, and have adequate capacity to manage themselves and camp communities. 41 participants benefited.

Among other projects carried out by Rwanga Foundation for the vulnerable people included food distribution to 50,854 vulnerable people in Erbil, Sulaimani, including Halabja, and Duhok. Due to COVID-19 curfews/lockdowns, vulnerable families were in urgent need of food supplies. Rwanga Foundation assisted the most vulnerable families who were in need of food support.
Moreover, Rwanga Foundation and Burger King provided meals to the key workers, including Police officers, Traffic Police, Medical staff, Special Forces, and other community members who played a vital role in the fight against Covid-19. The initiative was conducted all over KRI to show appreciation for the key workers’ efforts and thanked them for their services and for putting their lives on the line to protect us. However, they could not do this if they had not been fed and provided with energy. Meals provided to 23,983. (Erbil: 15,593, Sulaimani: 5,690, Duhok: 2,700).

Furthermore, funded by KIA (Kerk in Actie) in partnership with LWF (The Lutheran World Federation) to purpose on Fast Track Business Recovery Support Program aimed at supporting local firms and enterprises in WASH, agribusiness, and textile industries to recover their business and develop their productions in response to the needs of communities and as virus protective gear such as the production of food, hygiene material, and protective cloths. 10 host communities beneficiaries.
Rwanga Foundation, in coordination with the General Directorate of Labor and Social Affairs, was aimed to support and develop technical skills and capabilities of DoLSA to be able to sufficiently operate the six community social centers during the contracting year with GIZ. However, this project could enhance DOLSA technically and administratively being prepared to operate the six community centers and other centers and institutes in Duhok when GIZ and other international organizations withdraw and stop funding. 47 beneficiaries.

47 Beneficiaries

Other projects and activities under the program of Vulnerable Groups included the Houses for Vulnerable Families project. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its influence resulting in increasing the number of homeless, vulnerable families were in dire need of a place of residence/accommodation. The selection was based on the criteria of families with no house and/or poor housing conditions. Rwanga Foundation, thus, designed a project for four months to purchase houses for vulnerable families in Erbil, Sulaimani, and Duhok, including people from the host community but also refugees.

- Erbil: 4 families of 27 households
- Duhok: 3 families of 15 households
- Sulaimani: 3 families of 15 households
- Halabja: 1 family of 3 households
- The total number of benefited families: 11
- Total number of beneficiaries: 60

In addition to purchasing houses, necessary furniture and equipment were provided to the houses. The furniture of the houses in Erbil consisted of Carpet (3*4), Gas cooker (4 eyes), Mini Refrigerator (4.5 cu ft), Kitchen aluminum cabinet (4 doors), Closet (3 doors), Turbo heater, Sponge (Mattress, Blanket, Pillow) for each family member. In addition to that, all kitchen appliances and outdoor trash bins were purchased.
### Data Of Beneficiaries & Projects

#### 2021

- **By Gender**
  - Male: 57%
  - Female: 43%

- **By Type**
  - Host: 32%
  - IDP: 3%
  - Refugees: 4%

- **By Age**
  - 14: 12%
  - 15-35: 25%
  - 36+: 12%

- **By Sector**
  - Education: 47%
  - Youth: 9%
  - Environment: 16%
  - Environment vulnerable groups: 29%

#### 2013-2020

- **By Gender**
  - Male: 55%
  - Female: 45%

- **By Type**
  - Host: 29%
  - IDP: 9%
  - Refugees: 5%

- **By Age**
  - 14: 8%
  - 15-35: 46%
  - 36+: 19%

- **By Sector**
  - Education: 37%
  - Youth: 11%
  - Environment: 25%
  - Environment vulnerable groups: 62%

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**24 Projects**

**457,781 Beneficiaries**
Way Forward

2020

Rwanga Foundation strives to envision the overall goal of sustainable development through developing capabilities and capacities of people and institutions to become more effective and self-reliant. Although education and youth capacity building, environment, and vulnerable groups will continually form the core of Rwanga Foundation’s mission and work, there are multiple strands to the foundation’s substantive contribution to this strategy.

These strands include supporting the formal education system in capacity building, technical support, renovation of school buildings, and essential educational materials. Moreover, providing vocational and life skills training courses to support the youths to work, startup business, and participate in voluntary activities to become more productive and self-reliant will remain the foundation’s focus in 2021 and afterward.

- To provide a cordial atmosphere for students to actively participate in competitive events and provide them with an opportunity to develop their talents and reward the talented ones for pursuing their future visions.
- To create a distance learning program through integrated digital learning platforms, video lessons, particularly concerning formal and informal education through broadcasting social media and other communication channels.
- To involve young volunteers to support, promote civic engagement, and develop social skills that will be extremely useful in their subsequent professional experiences.
- Create and stimulate competition by offering various literacy projects to always strive for excellence in education.

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- To strive to uplift the quality of our living environment through active planting, proper maintenance, and preservation of city clean.
- To raise awareness of the public about environmental protection. Planting trees or other environmental concerns through community meetings, social media channels, videos, TV programs, and campaigns.
- To continue the project BRSP (Business Recovery Support Program), in partnership with CAPNI, to support local firms and enterprises in WASH, agribusiness, and textile industries to recover their business and develop their productions in response to the needs of communities and as virus protective gear such as the production of food, hygiene material, and protective cloths.
- To conduct some projects related to the development skills of the vulnerable groups and support them to establish small enterprises, particularly home-based business projects.

- To open a space for youth to express their ideas, opinions and exchange views with initiative decision-makers and influential figures. It leads to create a strong heritage of leadership in the next generation of youth.
- To prepare youth and women to enter a workforce that will be more digital and entrepreneurially focused technology.
- To support talented youth people having their work and efforts recognized and acknowledged through different Rwanga Programs including Rwanga Awards, Handmade, and Foras.

- In partnership with the GIZ continuing the project to support and develop the technical skills and capabilities of DoLSA to sufficiently operate the six-community social Centres during the contracting year with GIZ.
- To continue the project with the GIZ continuing the project to support and develop the technical skills and capabilities of DoLSA to sufficiently operate the six-community social Centres during the contracting year with GIZ.
- To conduct some projects related to the development skills of the vulnerable groups and support them to establish small enterprises, particularly home-based business projects.